



In this Issue:

2022 - 2023 Senior Program Wraps Up	1
Regional Director's Report	2
Gift Basket Auction Returns to Banquet....	3
Holiday Valley Food Drive	4
Western NY Alumni Day.....	4
Avalanche Course	5
Black Diamond Beacon Recall	5
Eastern Division YAP Seminar	6
Product Review - Hot Buns.....	7
Senior OEC Photos	8
Senior OET Photos	9
What's On Your Resume?.....	10
Great Deals on Outdoor Gear	10

2022 - 2023 SENIOR PROGRAM WRAPS UP

The 2022 - 2023 WNY Senior Program wrapped up the last weekend of February. The Senior OEC Evaluation was held at Peek'n Peak Resort in Clymer, NY on Saturday, February 25th. Six candidates passed their Senior OEC Evaluation.

The Senior OET Evaluation was held the following Day, February 26th at Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, NY. Five candidates passed their Senior OET Evaluation.



2023 Senior OEC from L-R, Sadie Prescott - WNY Senior OEC Training Coordinator, Julie Maciejewski - Kissing Bridge, Cooper Biersbach - Holimont, Kevin Murray - Holiday Valley, Ben Graham - Holiday Valley, Stan Skotnicki - Holiday Valley, Ryan Carlson - Kissing Bridge.



2023 Senior OET from L-R, Lynn Hall - Ski Sawmill, Doug Anderson - Holimont, William Lewis - Peek'n Peak, Chris Porter - Peek'n Peak, Kevin Murray - Holiday Valley, David Rousseau - Buffalo Ski Center



REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DAN MEESS - WESTERN NY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Spring greetings!

I've heard the term "crazy winter" from many people lately but the winter season is now behind us, at least in the East. This one probably beats "the winter that wasn't" several years ago. I found that the March skiing at Holiday Valley was the best of the season but then it was gone quickly. If you still desire some good skiing, I'm certain some areas out west will offer that into June.

Some updates within the Western New York Region include:

- Bill McCassey completed his third term as section chief, region representative or assistant region director, whichever you would care to call it. Thanks to Bill for his six years of great service in this position.
- Jay Biersbach is now one of our two region representatives, elected by our eight patrol directors to fill the vacancy. Thanks Jay, for stepping up and volunteering and thanks to the other nominees who agreed to run for this position.
- Kristen Russo was reelected for her third term as region representative. If you don't know, Kristen is the Eastern Division's Women's Program Advisor as well. Thanks Kristen, for all that you do so superbly.

- Michael Augello has been elected Holiday Valley Patrol Director replacing Greg McCabe who termed out after 4 years of outstanding service. We thank Greg and wish Mike well in this position which begins mid-May.
- Dave Gossel has been elected Holimont Patrol Director replacing Matt Root after his outstanding 2-year term. We thank Matt and wish Uncle Dave the best.

“Ralph Estep, an Alumni from the Kissing Bridge Patrol and still active in OEC and OET instruction, has been appointed the new Alumni Advisor.”

- On a sad note, it was recently announced that Cockaigne will not open for skiing or riding next season. I would ask that our region patrols consider these trained and talented patrollers as transfers or at least visiting patrollers until hopefully Cockaigne can reopen in the future. I'd also ask that they be welcomed at our 2023 fall OEC refreshers.
- I am completing my third and final 2-year term as WNY Region Director. Candidates for this position are being sought for the

election that will be conducted at the 2023 fall refreshers, or perhaps by on-line voting. Minimum qualifications include being an active patroller registered in this region; patrolling five or more seasons; having Senior Alpine, Senior Nordic or Certified Patroller status... and willing to participate in long Eastern Division meetings. All WNY patrollers have a vote. Contact Lowell Sylwester, WNY Region Election Committee Chair, or me if you are interested. Our contact info is on the region website: <http://www.nspwny.org>

- The WNY region had two Young Adult Patrollers (YAPs) participate in the Eastern Division YAP event at Smuggler's Notch in mid-March. Katherine Tedesco and Cooper Biersbach, both from Holimont, participated and a parent of each (Jackie & Jay) went along to chaperone and/or provide OEC or OET instruction. I heard that they had a blast and great snow. This was reported to be the largest YAP event so far with over 70 YAPs participating. Thanks to Jay for covering for me at the Eastern Division BOD meetings that weekend.
- The Region's awards banquet will be at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca beginning at 6:00 pm on Saturday, May 20. Depending on the timing

Continued on Page 3

Regional Director
Continued from page 2

of Fall Line distribution, there still may be time to sign up.

The Senior Program worked out very well despite a lack of abundance of senior terrain due to the weather. All six candidates that took the Senior OEC exam passed. All five candidates that participated in the skiing/riding portion of the Senior OET exam passed and five of the six candidates passed the toboggan handling portion. Congrats and thanks to the candidates, trainer/evaluators, instructors, volunteer patients, host areas, Sadie Prescott - OEC Senior Coordinator (OEC) and Jay Biersbach - OET Senior Coordinator for all the hard work and great results! The Senior Program is an outstanding opportunity to improve your skills.

The Region hosted a Level 1 Module 1 Avalanche Course at Allegany State Park thanks to Bill McCCasey's and Butch MacQueen's leadership and other instructors/helpers. There were 10 students in the class who now have general knowledge of avalanche conditions and emergency respons-

es when they end up in avalanche terrain.

Alumni Day was held on March 3 at Holiday Valley with complimentary lift tickets thanks to Patrol Director, Greg McCabe and the resort. Approximately 40 alumni patrollers and guests from around WNY enjoyed the camaraderie, a delicious meal and some good skiing since the rain held off. Thanks to Joan Reynolds and Don Weaver, WNY Region Alumni Advisors for organizing this fine event again. By my count and the help from some historical Fall Lines, Joan has been co-advisor for at least 27 years, when the first Alumni Day was held on March 20, 1997 at Holiday Valley, and Don for 10 years following his six years of extraordinary service as WNY Region Director. After all this success, they are turning the reins over to another alumni (or two) to continue this grand tradition. Many thanks to them for their decades of leadership!!! Ralph Estep, an Alumni from the Kissing Bridge Patrol and still active in OEC and OET instruction, has been appointed the new Alumni Advisor. Thanks, Ralph, for your interest and willingness to serve!

The WNY Region is again sponsoring a team of riders for the June 24 Ride for Roswell. Thanks to Kim Crotty for leading the team as captain. If you would like to ride or support one of the riders with a donation for Roswell Park, just go to Ride website at <https://www.rideforroswell.org>

On the main menu, you can sign up as a rider for the **National Ski Patrol - Western New York Region** team (note the space on each side of the hyphen in the team name when searching for the team) or make a donation under any of the team's riders. There are many different courses available: the 5-mile family course entirely on the UB Campus and Amherst bike paths; the 10, 20 or 30-mile river courses; the 44-mile Canada ride; and the 34, 45, 65 and 100-mile country routes. The team will have a tent with tables and chairs to snack, replenish fluids and relax after the races. Consider riding, donating in the name of one of the team's riders, volunteering in any of the needed capacities listed on the website or just showing up to join in the fun and support the team.

Thanks for all you do and have a great summer!
Dan Meess

GIFT BASKET AUCTION RETURNS TO THE WNY AWARDS BANQUET

The popular gift basket auction is returning to the WNY Awards banquet this year. Each patrol in the WNY Region has been asked to donate a gift basket. A Chinese Auction will be held at the banquet and attendees will have a chance to go home with some really nice gifts. Each attendee will receive two tickets with their banquet program and additional tickets can be purchased at the banquet. Proceeds will help offset the cost of the banquet.

The banquet is being held at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca, NY on Saturday, May 20th. Social hour and open bar begin at 6:00pm with the dinner at 7:00pm and the awards following. We have added Paypal as an option to pay for your tickets. The current price for the banquet is \$45.00 plus the \$1.50 Paypal fees. To register, please fill out the Google form. After you submit the Google Form, you will be given a link to pay for your registration.

To start the registration process is: [Click Here](#)



HOLIDAY VALLEY PATROL FOOD DRIVE

by Kristen Russo

The Holiday Valley Ski Patrol participated in another successful Food Drive to support our local food pantry in Ellicottville, NY. We were out at the local TOPS Market in Ellicottville on Friday Night, March 11 and Saturday, March 12 through the Mardi Gras Parade in the Village of Ellicottville. We collected \$3,411 and over 75 cases/bags of non-perishable food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies.



The Fall Line is the Official Newsletter for the Western New York Region, Eastern Division of the National Ski Patrol. It is typically published 3-4 times per year.

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WESTERN NEW YORK ALUMNI DAY

by Joan Reynolds

WNY Alumni had their yearly Alumni Day at Holiday Valley on March 3rd. It was attended by approximately 40 alumni and guests. A ski pass was provided for them as well as a great lunch. They had a decent day of skiing in spite of the crazy weather.

There were a lot of friendships renewed and a great time seemed to be had by all.

We were so busy talking and eating that we never got around to a group picture.



Lloyd Alexander - Western NY's first Certified Patroller



Alumni membership is a way for former patrollers to remain affiliated with NSP. You can choose how involved you want to be, whether as an instructor or with your local patrol. You always have the option to go back to patrolling with current OEC and your patrol representative/director's approval.

For only \$50 a year, you'll receive benefits including:

- Ski Patrol Magazine
- Discounts through the Ski Patrol Catalogs and NSP Pro Deals Page
- Sweep and Sweep Deals monthly e-newsletters
- Ability to participate in NSP Training or Education programs
- Online access to the NSP website
- Voting rights in board elections

When you are ready, become an alumni member, and join over 5,000 other alumni who help support our great organization.

2023 WNY AVALANCHE COURSE

by *Bill McCasey*

On February 19th WNY Region hosted an Avalanche 1, Module 1 Course at Allegany State Park. It was the first course in many years. We had 10 participants, 4 Instructors and NO SNOW! The course consisted mostly of classroom time with about an hour outside working with Transceivers and Probing Maneuvers. We had to scrap the Snow Pit Demo due to the lack of snow.

The Avalanche Staff have decided that we will present another course in 2024. Individuals who were unable to attend this year will have another chance to join us next year. The course size will be limited to 12 due to the available equipment. Our hope is that next year we will have enough snow to dig some Snow Pits and view Snowpack/layering. The inner workings in the Snowpack and the individual layers are interesting to view and touch. Snow Pits allows this to happen.

Lastly, if any Patrollers are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact us. Dave Williams, from the Holiday Valley Safety Patrol, is a new Instructor-in-Training who joined us this year. Dave has been interested in the study of Avalanches for many years. He has taken courses in the East and out West and will be a great asset to our Region.



Photos by *Al Quimby*

BLACK DIAMOND RECALL



VOLUNTARY RECALL: RECON LT AVALANCHE TRANSCIVER

3/23/2023

Today, we're issuing a voluntary recall on the Recon LT avalanche transceiver to carry out a necessary firmware update.

In a limited number of cases, the Recon LT could unexpectedly enter search mode, despite its rotary switch remaining in the send position. There have been no accidents or injuries resulting from this malfunction.

This issue is easily eliminated when users update their firmware to version v1.3 or later.

All users should immediately stop using their Recon LT until completing one of the following options:

1. To update your Recon LT, simply download the Pieps app for iOS or Android devices, connect the transceiver via Bluetooth, then follow the on-screen prompts.
2. Send your Recon LT to our service center, where we will perform the update for you free of charge.
3. Receive a full refund from Black Diamond for Recon LT customers.

For firmware update procedures and related recall information, please click [Learn More](#) below.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation, and we apologize for the inconvenience caused by this recall.

EASTERN DIVISION YOUNG ADULT SEMINAR

The Eastern Division Young Adult Seminar was held at Smugglers Notch Resort in Jeffersonville, VT on March 10-13, 2023. Cooper Biersbach and Kate Tedesco from Holimont were able to attend. Here are some photos from this event submitted by Jay Biersbach.



PRODUCT REVIEW

HOT BUNS FROM POWDER CORD POUCHES

by Al Quimby

When I first started patrolling about 15 years ago, I was on duty on a rainy Spring day, and my backside got soaked from sitting on a wet chairlift all day long. I went into the retail shop later that day, and I found this piece of gear, made of Neoprene, that strapped around your waist and legs with Velcro straps. There wasn't a lot to it, just a black piece of Neoprene. It was the original HotBuns Butt Warmer. From that day on, whenever it was raining, or we were laying in the snow for scenarios, I would always put my HotBuns on. Over the years, I have had to buy a couple of new ones because they would eventually tear. One of the things that I didn't like was the Velcro straps. With all my Winter gear on the straps were not really long enough and would come undone throughout the day. The Velcro would also stick to my Synchilla vest at times.



Logo. Not only that, but they also offer a 20% discount for the Ski Patrol version. This new version of "HotBuns" comes in 3 different sizes, and there is an optional strap extender kit that you can buy if you need more room. With the new webbing straps and buckles, I highly recommend this new version of "HotBuns". For more information, visit the website at <https://powdercordpouch.com/hotbuns-butt-warmer-sp.html>

Earlier this year, I decided that I needed a new pair, so I went online searching for them. What I found was an updated version of the original HotBuns that now have webbing straps and nylon buckles instead of Velcro. I was pretty excited, but then I saw that they had their large logo "HotBuns" printed in white on the back side. Being 60+ years old, I really didn't want "Hot Buns" written across my backside while skiing. However, when I looked at the website more closely, I saw a tab labeled Ski Patrol. When I clicked on that, I found that they offer a special Ski Patrol version that has red straps, and a White Cross with the words "Ski Patrol" on the back in place of the "HotBuns"



2023 SENIOR OEC PHOTOS



2023 SENIOR OET PHOTOS



WHAT'S ON YOUR RESUME?

By Al Quimby

I was recently having a conversation with some folks working on our patrol's award submissions, and one of them asked this questions: "Is your Ski Patrol Resume up to date?" I know that I keep my professional resume current, but I had never thought about a Ski Patrol resume. Surely, all of that information is stored somewhere, I thought, and our Patrol's Awards Committee has access to that information. The more I thought about it, the more curious I became. I then came up with 3 questions; Why would I need a Ski Patrol Resume; What information should be on that resume; and what information is stored in my NSP records.

WHY WOULD I NEED A SKI PATROL RESUME?

- To assist your local Awards committee to make sure that they have all the information needed to submit awards. It makes their job a lot easier if you can hand them your resume and they can pull dates and information from that. It might be a good idea for the local awards committee to ask all patrollers to maintain a resume and submit it at the end of each year.
- If you applying to join a new patrol or join a patrol as secondary. What a great way to introduce yourself and quickly show your qualifications to a new Patrol Director.
- As a backup in case there are errors on the National database. Anyone ever lose data because of a computer crash? Having a copy of your records can make it easier if something does happen to someone else's database.

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE ON THE RESUME?

- Important Dates, such as the date you joined, dates you gained certifications, dates you held positions, committees, dates of classes you took – NSP and local, any other activities that you did for your patrol or region.
- Awards you received, whether they are local, regional, division or national awards. If you have a copy of the write up citation, that is always nice to include as well.
- All courses that you have taken.
- Patrol memberships including what years you were on those patrols.

- The number of years as an instructor, and the type of instructor; OEC, OET, etc.
- Dates of positions held at all levels such as Patrol Director, Assistant Patrol Director, IT, TE, Hill Chief, Shift Leader, Secretary, Treasurer, and committee chairs and membership.
- Credential dates such as when you attained Senior or Certified.

I included a chronological timeline of all my information. It is interesting to look back over it and see what I have done over the years. You may have additional information that you want add.

WHAT INFORMATION IS STORED ON THE NSP SITE?

When you log into the NSP website you can see what information is stored there. Just click on "My Account" in the upper right corner. I found that a lot of the basic information is there; the date I joined, Instructor Certifications, NSP Courses completed, NSP Awards, Instructor Records, and any credential information. That was just the basic NSP information. From the NSP site, you can actually print a copy of your record if you like hardcopies. What wasn't in there was any Patrol, Region, or Division participation information. That kind of information is what is really needed by your local Awards committee to submit awards.

In summary, it is a good idea to keep a complete record of all your NSP accomplishments. It doesn't take a lot of time to get started, and then just take a look at it each year and note anything new or any changes. I'm sure that your local Awards Committee will appreciate the effort when they are submitting you for an award.

GREAT DEALS ON OUTDOOR GEAR

by Al Quimby

Everyone knows that the NSP offers Pro Deals on the NSP website. This is one of the great ways to get great gear at a discounted price. There are many other ways to get Pro deals on outdoor gear. One of those is from ExpertVoice.



ExpertVoice is an online community that offers discounts from hundreds of vendors to folks that are members of certain organizations, and the NSP is one of those organizations. To access these great deals, go to <https://www.expertvoice.com> and just click on Sign Up. You will fill out an on-line application and will also need to send them a copy of your current NSP membership card. Once you are approved, you can start shopping with the different vendors. Discounts range from 10% to 50%. Just keep in mind that these discounts are for your use only, not for gifts or other members of your family.